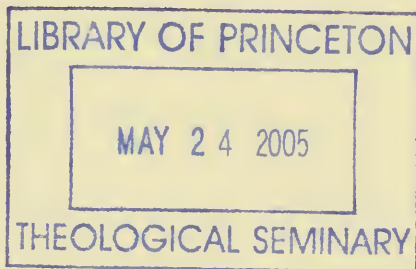



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AN
ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

LINNÆAN ASSOCIATION

OF

PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE,

AT THE DEDICATION OF THEIR HALL,

SEPTEMBER 14, 1847.

✓
BY J. G. MORRIS, D. D.

PRESIDENT OF THE LINNÆAN ASSOCIATION.

GETTYSBURG:

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MDCCCLVII.

ADDRESS.

The occasion which has brought us together to-day, forms an interesting event in the history of American Colleges.—As a Trustee of this institution, I feel proud that ours should be thus distinguished.—It is the first time, that an edifice devoted to Natural History, conceived, designed, erected and completed through the agency of students, has been dedicated in this country. Other prouder and more costly buildings have risen in other places, which are the depositories of more extensive collections than ours, but ours is the first, which the students themselves undertook to erect, and for the existence of which, they alone deserve all the credit. If young men, capable of accomplishing such enterprises in their College days, demanding no small share of energy and perseverance, do not succeed in the pursuits of professional life, it will be because there is some insuperable obstruction in the way.—Linnæans, this is an event, in which we may congratulate you. Your zeal in this cause, your untiring industry, your laudable ambition, your invincible perseverance has erected this beautiful edifice now dedicated to Natural History. Science will be indebted to you, for you have raised another temple to her honor,—the custodiaries of this College owe you a debt of gratitude, for you have increased their means of scientific instruction,—the inhabitants of this town are under obligations to you, for this noble edifice adds to its attractions,—every visitor to this seat of learning, will speak creditably of you, for you have in your building and in your cabinet furnished recreation to the curious for hours,—all the future students at these institutions, will have reason to remember you gratefully, for you have laid a foundation on which it will be easy for them to build; you have awakened a taste for Natural History stu-

dies and pursuits, which they will continue to foster,—you have begun a collection of scientific books, which they will increase,—you have set an example of energy which they will imitate. The students of the years 1845—1847, during which, this building was in progress, will be regarded as worthy of grateful remembrance ; and years after this, it will be a pleasing reminiscence to yourselves, that you aided in its erection. You will ever feel a deep interest in the prosperity of the Linnæan Association ;—it will afford you pleasure to contribute to its collection.—Some of you may cast your lot in the Far West,—some of you may become navigators and then visit many foreign coasts—some of you may remain near the paternal home, and from every place of your sojourn, you will feel it your duty to send something curious or rare in nature or art to the collection of the Linnæan Hall.—I most heartily congratulate you, Linnæans, on the auspicious event of this day. You can proudly say—our work is done,—all that we undertook is completed,—we leave to our successors in College, the further prosecution of the work.

There were others, a few months ago, associated with us in this enterprise, whose hearts would have been glad to mingle with you in the felicitations of this day,—whose indefatigable industry had already contributed much and promised more to the decoration of our Hall and the increase of our cabinet, but they are not here to day. They have been taken away, and their early grave has been bedewed with student's tears. Hallowed be the memory of deceased fellow students ; green be the turf that covers their grave and ever fragrant the flowers that the hand of affection plants there !

The Linnæan Association of Pennsylvania was instituted in 1844, and, I believe, it may be said that in no other College in this country, is there a similar society. It holds regular monthly meetings, at which original papers on Natural History and other scientific subjects are read and discussed.—The cabinet is gradually increasing and a growing interest in its improvement is felt by the community.—A Monthly Journal, in part devoted to Natural History, has been published by this Association for three years. It has been most favorably noticed by many editors of other papers, not only for its intrinsic excellence, but as a scientific publication issued under the auspices and sustained by the energies of College students.—What else has this society done ?—Its active members have planted the College campus with thriving shade trees—they have formed meandering walks—have built beautiful bowers and summer houses—have laid out flourishing flower beds—have planted shrubbery and grape vines—have beautified the whole field and rendered it

an object of admiration. They have constructed convenient roads leading from the College edifice in various directions, and in many ways have contributed much to the ornament of the place. In a few years the College campus will indeed be an attractive spot, and for all its inviting charms, we shall be indebted to the Linnæan Association. Scarcely any thing of all this would have been done, if this society had not been established. The Linnæans felt, that it was expected of them as an institution, to honor the immortal Naturalist after whom they are called and follow his example in promoting the happiness of mankind by a proper attention to arboriculture.

Every thing outside, as well as inside of a College, should be rendered attractive and inviting. The avenues leading to it should be unencumbered and solid,—the walks around it should be tasteful and elegant;—there should be groves and bowers; gardens and flowers; summer houses and rustic seats,—there should be inviting rural retreats for the hours of relaxation, and sylvan hiding places for solitary meditation.

“ The warbling woodland,
The pomp of groves and garniture of fields ”

refine the taste, subdue the grosser passions and conquer temptation to forbidden pursuits.—An hour's stroll in such a place only prepares us for the more successful prosecution of severe studies.

At the entrance of a grove of hundreds of acres in extent, adorned with every thing that arboricultural science and taste could produce, just outside of the city of Munich, there stands a beautiful marble statue of a youth; in one hand, he holds a scroll and with the other he points to the grove. On the scroll are engraven these words,

Harmonios wandelt hier, dann
Kehret neu gestärkt zu jeder
Pflicht zurück.*

As I espied this inscription, I thought of our College campus, as I trust it will not be many years hence. I admire appropriate inscriptions in public places and before long we must have them in our grove.

Here where the charms of art and nature meet,
To court the pencil or awake the lyre,
May science fix her favorite retreat
And pure devotion, nobler thoughts inspire !

Before many years, I trust, we shall have a botanical garden, in which shall be reared most of the plants which can endure this climate,

* Ramble innocently through these groves,—then, refreshed by exercise, return to the discharge of every other duty of life.

all appropriately labelled,—yea, my hopes extend still further,—and that we shall have a hot house in which to rear tropical plants, and on the ornamental portal of which shall be inscribed, “*Hic ver assiduum, et alienis mensibus æstas,*” and beneath this, the following invitation, “*Hic intra, hic floræ soboles et lecta propago.*”

The prosecution of Natural History is the principal design of the Linnæan Association, and this edifice is to be the depository of our collection.—Natural History is indeed, a noble science! It embraces the systematic study and scientific arrangement of the ten thousand natural objects that are obvious to us. It contemplates the investigation of animals, minerals, and plants,—the distribution of them into orders, families, genera and species—the study of their relation to each other,—their uses,—their habitats. It includes also a collection of these objects for examination and reference.

The student of Nature is often asked, *Cui bono?*—of what use is all this? He is seen going forth with his gun, net, bottles, tin boxes and other apparatus in pursuit of his prey.—He is seen shooting, drawing and then skinning a bird,—and “still the wonder grows” in the uninitiated countryman or uneducated townsman who happens to look on—his race after a snake and then bottling it, is regarded with amazement—the capture of a beetle or a butterfly is esteemed a waste of time,—his gathering of plants is considered school girl’s play and many people think he would be much better employed in breaking stones on the turnpike at half a dollar a day, than knocking crystals out of a rock with his geological hammer,—that he would better help to dig a canal or excavate the deep cut of a rail road, than be grubbing into the earth after petrifications. Some years ago the will of a certain noble lady in England was attempted to be broken by some disappointed heirs.—They tried to prove she had been insane and, of course, incompetent to make a will. How did they attempt to establish her insanity: by showing that she tried to screw herself up to the dimensions of a wasp by steel stays?—that she wore enormous hoops?—No! That she talked silly nonsense, or that being old and ugly, she had fallen in love with a handsome young man? No, nothing of all this! It was because *she was fond of Entomology!* and they maintained that no person in his senses could ever collect insects! *Cui bono?*—of what use is this studying of birds and bugs,—of beetles and bears,—of snakes and snails,—of shells and shad,—of stones and bones,—of plants and pike? Mere utilitarians are constantly putting this question, *cui bono?* if by it they mean, how much money will these pursuits put into your pocket?—the answer is easy. The study of Natural History is not usually

profitable in this respect. It rather costs money. Books, apparatus, journeys, and correspondence make frequent demands on the purse.

Many persons ask this question because they do not hear of the science of Natural History being taught in our schools or Colleges, and of very few private gentlemen pursuing it. It is to most people a new thing. They look on it as the gratification of mere curiosity—a convenient way of filling up an idle hour. They have no idea of the *science*. They do not know that all these plants, minerals and animals are systematically arranged according to their natural relations---that all are so placed together as to produce a beautiful and harmonious whole---that each individual has a name indicating some of its qualities. They have no idea of all this and open their eyes wide when they are told that a plant or a crystal which requires a microscope to examine it has been accurately described and probably figured in a book, and that an insect no larger than a pin's head has been the subject of learned investigation. All these and many other things in connexion with these pursuits appear strange and they cannot see the use of them. The most uncultivated peasant in Germany never asks this question. He knows better. Natural History excursions are too common there. Every day in the summer, he sees men wandering over the fields in search of objects and he knows the character of their pursuits.

We are created for God's glory, but that we cannot promote unless we know him, through his revelation and his creation ; but alas ! many live from youth to hoary age, who neither find out God as he has revealed himself in the Scriptures nor in Nature. They spend their days in idleness, or if they are industrious it is only to pamper their appetites, or to accumulate wealth.

But then, look at the *cui bono*, in another aspect.

The study of Naturel History *amuses* us.

The wonderful phenomena in the habits, instincts and propensities of animals,---the properties, and uses of plants and minerals,---afford constant interest to our minds. It is reading the great volume of Nature, in every page of which are written the most charming facts. Its endless variety furnishes an unfailing source of gratification of the highest order. We can never grow weary here, for the author of this book has infinite resources to amuse and interest.

This study *instructs* us.

The Great Creator has fitted up this wonderful Museum for us to study. Man is the only being capable of admiring it, and he has been placed in it. Did God create all these things in vain ?

"Not a tree
 "Not a leaf, a blossom, but contains
 "A volume. We may read and read
 "And read again, and still find something new
 "Something to please, and something to instruct
 "E'en in the noisome weed.

The relation of man to animals, their relations to each other---their distribution throughout the earth---their uses---their rank in the scale of creation---their habits---their propagation---their food---their sleep---their infinite diversity---their migration---their hybernation---their anatomy---in a word, every thing in the world around us may teach us something useful and important.

This study contributes to our health.

Why have we so many invalid students, literary men and ministers? It is for the most part because they do not exercise in the open air. A walk of a mile wearies them. Most of them know nothing of the natural objects around them, and, of course, take no interest in them. What are plants, or minerals, or insects, or other animals, to them? They toil on their weary way of a mile or two and return excessively fatigued. To the student of Natural History this is impossible. Every curious plant, every strange mineral, every unusual geological formation, every uncommon animal attracts his attention,---even the shape of the clouds is not unobserved. His walk is not wearisome, for his mind is intently engaged,---he climbs the tall mountain,---he dives into the deep dell,---he wanders through the silent woods,---he traverses the green fields,---if need be, he wades through the mire in pursuit of his prey,---he turns over the stones, he rolls aside the logs,---he "beats the bush"---he fishes in the stream---he explores the cave,---he descends into the mine,---he breaks the rock, ---he plucks the plant,---and all this is done, unmindful of miry bog, or prickly bramble, or dense forest, or tangled undergrowth, or shelving rock, or high fence, or flowing river. It is rather a "rough" employment, but he is always "ready" to engage in it, and hence to be a real outdoor naturalist, a man ought to be "rough and ready." Here is the source of health and if all men of refined taste or literary pursuits, would only acquire a fondness for Natural History studies, we should not be so often called on to sympathize with invalids or to mourn over the premature death of many a child of genius.

This study affords us wholesome recreation, amid the more serious and profitable pursuits of life.

Every man of business or professional life has, his hours of idleness or what is worse, hours of listless dejection. He needs relaxation---

He may not love gay company, or if he does, he may not have an opportunity to enjoy it. He may have no family circle to mingle with, or if he has, he may be in no mood to be amused with the prattle of children or the conversation of a wife,---he may be a bachelor, young or old, and afraid of the ladies, or he may be awkward and ugly, and no favorite of theirs; he may be a grave and solitary student with a mind and habits not suited to the relaxing influences of refined society, ---how will such a man fill up his vacant hours?---If he were fond of Natural History and had a cabinet or loved to roam the fields and the woods, he could soon drive dull care away. These pursuits are a grand panacea for this melancholy mood.---Did you ever hear a naturalist complain of the tediousness of life?---Never. Every month in the year affords him something new in his favorite studies. When the weather is unfavorable for field observation, his cabinet at home, his microscope or his books instruct and amuse him.---He has always something to engage his mind, and is always innocently and profitably engaged.

This study leads to many useful discoveries : but on this head, I have not time now to dwell. This study brings us into near relation with the Almighty author of all. It enlarges our views of his glorious character,---of his power, wisdom and goodness,---at every step we are called on to admire his infinite perfection,---and not only, in the stupendous and celestial, but in the minute and even the microscopic.

These are a few of the replies, I would give to the question, *cui bono?*

I think we, in general, are too well satisfied with the every day pursuits of life;---the old track of our fathers,---that horse mill round, which never leaves a prescribed and well beaten circle. It appears to me there is too little seeking after what Cicero calls the "*animorum ingeniorum naturale pabulum*" and this he applies to the study of nature.

It is to be regretted that a love of nature is not implanted in our youth at an earlier period,---it is an evidence of our backwardness in civilization. Natural History ought to be taught in our schools and Colleges regularly, but now it is either wholly disregarded or pushed into a corner of the day, and got rid of as soon as possible.---In the Gymnasias and Universities of Germany, they find sufficient time for instruction in this branch of science and without any detriment to the other departments, for I think, it will be conceded, that in Germany they turn out from their schools as good linguists and mathematicians as any other schools in the world, showing that these studies were not

neglected, though the pupils did hear lectures on Natural History. I was pleased in Berlin and other cities of Germany to see from 10 to 30 students going out every afternoon after lecture or school hours with their green painted tin boxes or their nets, to gather plants and capture insects, and I wished, that it could be so in our country.

I think, that Trustees and Faculties of Colleges should introduce this study from another motive, besides its vast importance and utility as a science. I believe it has a moralizing tendency. I believe that few young men fond of such pursuits in College can be immoral. The student of nature cannot love dissipation. He finds excitement enough in these studies. The artificial and senseless excitement of wine and cards, has no attractions for him,---such a young man will not be found in the company of those who love the midnight revel, or the dignified amusement of disturbing the slumbers of more honest men than themselves.

This science is making rapid advances in our country. The *fauna* and *flora* of our land have been admirably illustrated. In no country on earth have more magnificent books been published on this subject than in our own. Foreign naturalists speak of the labors of our countrymen with the highest admiration.---Let me here give you a slight sketch of what has been done.

You have all heard of, if you have not seen, Audubon's splendid and costly work on our birds,---the most costly and magnificent that has ever been published. But the student of Ornithology may furnish himself with less costly books than that.---Audubon has published a reduced and abbreviated edition of his great work,---or if that should still be too dear, let him procure Bonaparte's Synopsis of the Birds of America,---or Nuttall's---or Brewer's edition of Wilson. Bachman, Ord, Townsend, and Baird have contributed much to the promotion of this delightful branch of Natural History.

Godman, Harlan, Dekay, Say, Ord and Peale deserve lasting gratitude for what they have done to illustrate our Mammals, but the great work on this class of animals of our country is now in course of publication by Audubon and Bachman. The large plates are truly splendid and life-like, and the letter press description chiefly from the graphic pen of Bachman, has all the interest of the most eventful history.---This great work does unspeakable credit to these two distinguished Naturalists.

Our reptiles have been described and in part figured by Green, Leconte, Say, Lescur, Harlan, but the crowning work of all is that by Dr. Holbrook, of Charleston, in 5 large 4tos, in which almost every one

of our reptiles is beautifully figured. Our *fishes* have been described by Mitchel, Leseur, Storer, Dekay, Smith, Rafinesque, Kirtland, Ayres, Haldeman and Holbrook. Our *shells*, by Say, Rafinesque, Conrad, Lea, Gould, Binney, Hildreth, Barres, Haldeman, Adams, Mighles, &c. &c.—Our *crustacea* by Say, Gould, Haldeman. Our *insects*, in part by Say, the Melsheimers, the Lecrutes, Peck, Harris, Heutz, Haldeman, Randall, Ziegler, &c. I need not mention our botanical and mineralogical writers.—Here then, the student of the Natural History of our country, has works furnished to his hand for the pursuit of the science.—But industrious as these authors have been, yet much remains to be done. There is room yet for the most zealous student to distinguish himself if he will,—all our animals and plants and minerals and shells and fossils even in the most populous sections of the country, have not been discovered and described, and what rich treasures in Natural History will not the exploration of Oregon, California and Mexico disclose?

Our countrymen have gained for themselves immortal renown by their labors in this department.—We were too long in scientific subjection to foreign countries and it was time to disenthral ourselves. We have the genius, the perseverance and the materials. We want encouragement alone. Our scientific men have risen up in their might and we now have native American works that will compare with, and many of them excel any similar works ever produced in the old countries of Europe.—True, our collections of our own animals cannot yet vie with collections of American animals in the Museum of Europe. They have had the start of us,—for years they have sent out collectors to gather and take home every thing they could find,—their Fur companies and navigators—their travelling naturalists have been most zealous and successful; but we shall soon equal them and when the Smithsonian Institution gets into full operation, I hope, we may have a collection of our American Fauna, unequalled in the world; when it will not be necessary for an American Naturalist, to go to Europe to take the drawing of an American animal.—One day last Summer, being in the work room of the British Museum, I found one of the young Audubon's copying, for his father's and Bachman's work, an American animal,—it was a rare species of otter, I think, from the N. W. Territory—there was no specimen in the States and he had to go all the way to London to take a drawing—it will not be so 10 years hence. Several of our States have already made Zoological as well as Geological surveys of their territory and have published splendidly illustrated works

and it is hoped, that they will be as anxious to establish collections of their Zoology as of their Geology.

Most of you, Linnæans, are preparing for one of the learned professions.

Do you intend to be a physician?

Natural History will be of great assistance to you. Hear what our great master, Linné, says: "A physician must not vacillate, but go boldly forward in theory and experiment—with all his might he must study the nature of disease and its remedies,—he must clothe himself with Botany, Zoology, Chemistry, Pharmacy, Physiology and Anatomy, *that he may not go naked to work.*" A knowledge of the Anatomy and Physiology of animals is almost essential to a knowledge of human Anatomy and Physiology.—It is the animal nature in man which is most subject to external influence,—which suffers most by sickness and through which medicine exerts its influence.

But besides, the Doctor of the town is presumed to know all these things, and hence whenever a strange animal is caught or a curious phenomenon in nature occurs, he is applied to for information. He ought at least to be able to determine the order, and genus, if not the species to which these things belong, and in some degree enlighten the ignorance of the people around him.

Do you intend to be a clergyman?

Then follow the direction of your divine Master, and "*consider the lilies of the field and the fowls of the air,*" *seek out the works of God and take pleasure therein.*—If you study Mineralogy, you will better understand the power and beauty of the Apocalyptic description of the New Jerusalem,—if you study Zoology and Botany, you will better appreciate those numerous passages of Scripture which are illustrated by animals or plants. You will be able to draw, from the natural world around you, many striking illustrations of spiritual and divine truth.—You will have it in your power to correct many erroneous notions prevalent among the people and remove unfounded and sometimes dangerous prejudices.—If a parishioner brings you what he calls a *petrified honey comb*, you can correct his error, and tell him that it is only a singular species of fossil coral, and then if you are not afraid of your reputation as an orthodox divine, you can give him a lecture on ante-Adamic Geology.—If he brings you what is commonly called a *petrified snake*—you can remove his false idea and instruct him in the nature of *Ammonites*.—Thus the *petrified frogs*, and *intestines of a squirrel* and *mulberries*, and *bull's horns* and *nests of serpents*, which are

found, you will be able to explain and give them their proper character and name.

You will find these studies a source of constant and most wholesome relaxation, and probably be the better and certainly the more healthy man, for attending to them.

Are you destined for *the law*?

You will need some recreation from your dry and crabbed studies and perplexities, and you will no where find them more abundant and innocent than in the study of Natural History.

Do you intend to devote your attention *to the cultivation of the soil*?

You are the man who should especially pursue it.—The depredations of animals on your crops,—the ravages of insects on your grains and fruits—the nature of soil—the character of vegetation—and the influence of seasons—all these, and other subjects more or less remotely connected with Natural History, are constantly presented to your mind. Your observations and notes on the insects, injurious to vegetation, might lead to important results and your study of the plants or minerals, on your farm, might contribute to the promotion of science.

Thus every man, it matters not what profession he pursues, will find in these studies an exhaustless fund of instruction, utility and amusement.

I hope that the completion of this Hall will give a new impetus to our zeal in the cause. We must now exert ourselves to increase the collection, many objects of value may be found in various places which their present owners do not perhaps appreciate, which they might be disposed to deposit in our Hall. Let every one of us then, set himself diligently to work to collect not only objects of Natural History, but also scientific books, paintings, engravings, casts, medals, coins and every thing that can contribute to refine the taste, delight the eye, improve the heart and cultivate the mind.

Thus, we shall have reared a temple worthy of the name of the great Linné,—the most illustrious naturalist that ever lived or probably that will ever live,—whose delight it was to see young men engaged in his favorite pursuit, and to guide them in their studies. By our energy in prosecuting this work,—by our zeal in furthering the interests of the Linnæan Association,—by our industry in increasing its cabinet, we will be promoting the cause of sound learning, the prosperity of Pennsylvania College, and the solid enjoyment of those who shall succeed us as Students, Professors or Trustees of this institution.

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